FOREIGN STUDENTS CROWDING CANADIANS OUT???

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ENTERING CANADA ON SPECIAL VISAS. THESE STUDENTS CANNOT BECOME LANDED IMMIGRANTS EASILY.

NOT ALL FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE ORIENTAL NOR ALL ORIENTALS ARE FOREIGN. AMONG THE FOREIGN STUDENTS, IN 1977, 21% WERE FROM UNITED KINGDOM, 18.3% FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND 13.9% FROM HONG KONG.

FOREIGN STUDENTS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 5.3% OF THE TOTAL UNIVERSITY POPULATION. AT U of T, THERE ARE ONLY A FEW FOREIGN STUDENTS IN MEDICINE, AND NONE ENROLLED IN DENTISTRY OR PHARMACY.

CANADA IS NOT A "SUCKER COUNTRY". AS OF 1977, CANADIANS STUDYING ABROAD OUTNUMBERED THE FOREIGN STUDENTS IN CANADA.

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE CHARGED ACADEMIC FEES OF APPROXIMATELY 2½ TIMES THAT OF THE CANADIAN CITIZENS AND LANDED IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

TORONTO STAR, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1979 / A1

Foreign students 'no threat'

Report that Canadians squeezed out 'nonsense'

By Trish Crawford Toronto Star

Foreign students represent only a small proportion of enrolment in Canadian universities and are not crowding out Canadian-born students, student and education officials say.

Morna Ballantyne, executive secretary for the National Union of Students, said in an interview yesterday the organization's headquarters was flooded with phone calls following a CTV public affairs show Sunday night that said Canadian students are being kept from some courses for lack of space, while foreign students are allowed in.

"Foreign students account for only 5.3 per cent of the total university population," said Miss Ballantyne, adding that the numbers of foreign students in such restricted programs as medicine and dentistry is extremely small.

"We encourage foreign students. They add a lot to our education system. Many Canadians were educated abroad in the past and we have an enormous debt to pay the rest of the world," she said.

William Winegard, chairman of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, which advises the province on university matters, said only medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and law have restricted numbers of graduates allowed and foreign students in these courses are almost unheard-of.

First chance

Engineering, mathematics and computer science courses were named in the television program as important courses with high foreign student enrolment and reduced access to Canadians.

"Some of those courses are restricted at individual universities but they are not closed programs," Winegard said.

He said it is "nonsense" to claim Canadian students don't have first chance at the best courses.

A Statistics Canada report on foreign student populations said that in 1977, nine medical schools in Canada did not accept foreign students at all and only 83 foreign students were registered in medical schools throughout the country.

At U of T, there are only two foreign students in medicine out of a class of 256 and none enrolled in dentistry or pharmacy. The engineering department has established a 5 per cent quota on foreign students but there are no limits in mathematics or computer science courses as there are student places available.

The Statistics Canada study estimated "almost 20 per cent of the highly qualified manpower in Canada obtained their university degree abroad; at the doctoral level, this percentage is close to 60 per cent."

There are about 10,000 Canadians each year studying in universities abroad, with about 29,500 foreign students coming to Canada, the report said.

Make contribution

Fewer than 8 per cent of the foreign students were sponsored by the Canadian government, with the majority being financed by their parents and home governments.

At U of T, foreign students account for 6.1 per cent of the school's population, said Elizabeth Patterson, director of the International Student Centre.

On a province-wide basis, the Council of Ontario Universities has recently compiled statistics on foreign university students showing total percentage for 1977-78 was 4.1 per cent of the total provincial student full-time population of 224,494.

The provincial breakdown of foreign students by field of study shows highest enrolments in engineering and lowest in nursing and medicine.

The percentage of foreign students by field of study is: education, 1.2; fine art, 2.9; humanities, 3.6; social sciences, 4.5; agriculture and biology, 3.8; engineering and applied science, 8.5; nursing and medicine, 2.1; mathematics and physical sciences, 8.4; and general arts and sciences, 3.5.

In Ontario, students from the United Kingdom account for 21 per rent of the foreign student population with the United States totalling 18.3 per cent and Hong Kong 13.9 per cent in 1977.

W5 angers U of T community

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ADMINISTRATORS AND STUDENTS ARE ANGRY WITH THE IMAGE OF FOREIGN STUDENTS PROJECTED IN CTV'S W5 PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 30.

The Varsity

By CHRISTINE SYPNOWICH

University of Toronto administrators and students are angry with the image of foreign students projected in CTV's *W5* program on September 30.

The segment of W5, entitled "The Campus Giveaway", claimed that foreign students enter Canada on special visas and "easily become landed immigrants" in order to study at Canadian post-secondary schools. The program maintained that Canadians with "first-class marks" have been turned away so that 100,000 foreign students, the majority of which are from Southeast Asia, may study here. Twenty percent of the students in the higher technological fields are foreign, according to the program.

Elizabeth Patterson, Director of the U of T International Student Centre, stated that W5 "misused the statistics we gave them." Nona Macdonald, Public Relations manager for U of T Information Services, said that the lower foreign student statistics cited in the *Toronto Star* article "Foreign Students 'No Threat' " (October 2, 1979) are correct, and not those stated on W5.

According to *The Star*, only 29,500 foreign students come to Canada each year.

"It's just really disgusting," said Dinah Cheng, President of the U of T Chinese Students' Association (CSA), in reference to the program's message. The CSA is concerned about how the program singled out Chinese students. CTV chose to portray only Chinese students and emphasized that they fail to integrate with the rest of the university community.

Yet, according to *The Star* article, in 1977, 21 percent of foreign students were from the United Kingdom, 18.3 percent from the United States, and 13.9 percent from Hong Kong.

The CSA is also concerned about the programme's implicit assumption that all students of Chinese descent are "foreign".

Cheng has approached the Ontario Human Rights Commission, but the electronic media is not under its jurisdiction. The CSA is currently seeking an apology from CTV.

"Not just here, but right across Canada people are upset," said Macdonald. Last week Macdonald met with administrators from other Canadian universities to show a videotape of the program and consider possible responses.

Dr Alan Earp, President of Brock University, has sent a telegram to the CTV administration objecting to the nature of the program.

"Members of U of T faculties who want to refute what they consider erroneous are making statements," according to Macdonald. "Appropriate action is under discussion by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada," Macdonald said.

Gary Ralph, Associate Producer for W5, said that of about 150 phone calls CTV received in response to the show, approximately 60 percent were favourable. Ralph said that the *Toronto Star* figures are out of date and stands "absolutely" by the content of the program.

TORONTO STAR, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1979

Foreign riff-raff?

—Varsity—

How about the foreign riff-raff what everbody knows, is free-loading off the Canadian public, an' cheating our Canadian boys outa the doctorin' jobs they deserves? Last Sunday, the regular guys down at CTV *W5* news show were pretty riled up.

And so are we.

The programme, *"The Campus Giveaway"* misrepresented the situation and did much to reinforce public opinion that foreign students are ousting Canadian kids from invaluable positions in the professional faculties.

Only four to five percent of Ontario's students are foreign students. Less than one percent of medical students are visa students. It is not that four or five percent is acceptable and any more is not. The university should be an international mosaic.

Fifteen to twenty years ago, Canada did not have the facilities to train our students in specialized and technical fields. European countries offered their universities to Canadians. Our students, for the most part, did not have to pay differential (additional) tuition fees. And yet, Canada has failed to reciprocate the gesture.

Queen's Park bodies will always espouse the "cultural mosaic" Canadian ideal, but continue to make such a mosaic impossible within the organism that most benefits from it, the university.

If foreign students out-perform Canadians, then this is the best reason for removing the differential fee. Rather than reacting to competition, the attitude of Canadian students is to remove the competition.

Foreign students are a benefit to Canada. Rather than demonstrating this and exploring their current hardships, programmes like *W5* cheat these students and exploit Canadian xenophobia.

FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE A BENEFIT TO CANADA. RATHER THAN DEMONSTRATING THIS AND EXPLORING THEIR CURRENT HARDSHIPS, PROGRAMMES LIKE W5 CHEAT THESE STUDENTS AND EXPLOIT CANADIAN XENOPHOBIA.

Foreign students not 'free riders'

My own experiences as a PhD student at York University, first on a foreign student visa and then as a landed immigrant married to a Canadian stand in direct contrast to the misleading impressions conveyed by the article "Foreign students crowding ours out?"

First, foreign students are by no means "free riders" in the Ontario university system. At York in 1979-80, for example, foreign students pay $1,950 for 12 months of study compared with $802.50 for Canadians and landed immigrants.

Second, it is not easy to either become a landed immigrant or receive "grants, scholarships, loans, and other benefits" as a foreign student. Although I acquired landed status through the sponsorship of my Canadian spouse, this process was lengthy, difficult, and expensive.

Only after a full year of study here as a landed immigrant am I able to apply for Ontario Graduate Scholarships, Canada Council awards, and other grants in the same category as Canadian students.

Third, it should be noted that since foreign applicants are judged on the basis of exceptionally high academic standards, they bring to Canadian universities an essential element of quality.

SYLVIA BASHEVKIN
Toronto

'THE SECTION ON FOREIGN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN CANADA, ON THE CTV PROGRAM W5, DISPLAYED THE TYPICAL TECHNIQUES OF PREJUDICE AND RACIAL BIAS.' COMMENTED BY PROFESSORS.

TORONTO STAR, MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1979 / A19

Determine entry by academic standing

The section on foreign university students in Canada, on the CTV program W5, displayed the typical techniques of prejudice and racial bias.

For instance, only Asian students were photographed when "foreign students" were mentioned, as though we have no Caucasian and Africans as visiting students, or as though all Asians in our schools are non-citizens.

Just as serious, but more subtle, was the deliberate blurring of the distinction between the professional schools within the universities and the universities themselves. The commentary implied that because some Canadian students do not gain places in the stiff competition to enter professional schools of pharmacy, medicine, engineering, etc. in prestigious universities and some visiting students do, that Canadian students are being denied access to higher education as a whole.

Entry into professional schools should be determined by high, strictly academic qualifications and not by nationalistic criteria.

If not, the standards of professional training in Canada will decline and the Canadian taxpayer and society in general will be the ultimate losers. JOHN J. FUREDY
Professor, Department of Psychology
University of Toronto

CHRIS FUREDY
Associate professor,
Division of Social Science
York University

TORONTO STAR, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1979

Report on foreign students called 'misleading'

The TV report on foreign students in Canada on CTV's W5 was very misleading.

In the opening comment, Helen Hutchinson said that many Canadian students could not get into the schools of medicine, engineering or pharmacy because some "foreign students" have taken their places.

The fact is, none of the medical schools in Canada accept applications for admission from foreign students except under very special situations.

I am a third-year medical student at U of T and the only foreign students in my class were three students transferred from Iran this year because of the political situation there.

Similar situations exist in most of the professional faculties across Canada. As a matter of fact, foreign students are very limited in their choice of program in a Canadian university.

Nothing could be further from the truth when Ms Hutchinson stated that many foreign students came here as high school students, became landed immigrants easily, and then continued on to their higher education in Canada.

Anyone with some knowledge of Canada's immigration laws knows that foreign students cannot become landed immigrants easily. They can not even apply for the status of landed immigrant while they are in Canada and have to return to their own country to do so. The application would take months to years to be processed and the chance of acceptance is slim.

The biggest fault and danger of the show is that it misled people into believing that every yellow-skinned student on a university campus is a foreign student. It didn't try to differentiate the real foreign students — students with student visas — from the Canadian students of non-white origin.

The vast majority are either Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. In my class, there are 30 students of Chinese origin, including myself. But none of us is a foreign student.

I am very saddened that a well respected show like W5 can produce this kind of journalism which exploits the anger of failure within people and tries to find some scapegoat for them.

It achieves nothing but to promote hate and misunderstanding between different races in Canada.

C. F. CHIN
Toronto

TORONTO STAR, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1979 / A9

'Subtle attack' on immigrants, reader charges

I congratulate Star writer Sol Littman for his courageous and lucid rebuttal to the many and varied cries against Canada's immigration of the non-white peoples, in the article "We've had that immigration argument before — remember?"

There is another more subtle but just as real manifestation of the prevailing attacks on non-white immigrants appearing from time to time in letters to the editor columns and skilfully summarized by the W5 television program, Sept. 30. That is the furtive but vigorous promotion of the idea that immigrants should not be allowed to be treated equally as Canadian citizens for the purposes of university admission, and especially admission to professional schools.

Of course such letterwriters and that W5 TV program did not use the term "immigrants"; they referred to these immigrants simply as "foreign students." They obviously want to see these students who are on "landed immigrants" status treated exactly as those foreign students who are in Canada on "student visa."

Therefore, Trish Crawford's report in The Star quoting the very low or non-existent percentage of "foreign" — meaning "visa" — students in university professional courses really did not counter the thrust of such attacks as that W5 program.

If these kinds of attacks on immigrants should be allowed to prevail, I am sure next would logically be promotion to treat all "landed immigrants" on the same basis as non-immigrant foreigners for the purposes of Ontario government and Canadian government student-aid loans and grants, university and school scholarships and fellowships, applications for research grants in university research programs, etc.

Littman's article mentioned the name of the Nobel laureate Gerhard Hersberg. Dr. Hersberg spent his first few years in Canada as an immigrant teaching in Saskatchewan. If during that period he were denied research funds on the basis of his being a "foreigner", it would almost be a certainty that he would not have ended up by winning the Nobel Prize as a Canadian!

I hope for a rebuttal to this vicious and covert promotion of the idea that landed immigrant students be treated as foreign (visa) students for the purposes of university admissions and other educational purposes.

STEPHEN SIM
Scarborough

WE ARE LOSING OUR RESPECT FOR A CANADIAN TV PROGRAM THAT CAN PROVIDE SUCH INACCURATE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION.

WE DEMAND THE CTV TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO CORRECT THEIR MISREPRESENTED AND INACCURATE INFORMATION PUBLICLY.

THIS WAS PREPARED BY
A GROUP OF CONCERNED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.